





Veterinary Care Ensures a Healthy and Long Life for Your Pet

Your veterinarian is the best source of information for your pet's health. Be sure to follow his or her recommendations.

-  Regular checkup every six months or as recommended by your veterinarian.
-  Make sure you give your pet their monthly heartworm preventative.
-  Know what to expect at examinations. Common diagnostic tests your veterinarian may want to perform include fecal exams checking for internal parasites and blood tests to check for diseases.
-  During the physical exam, your veterinarian will feel your pet's abdomen, listen to the chest, check the condition of the coat, look in the ears for infection and ear mites, and inspect the mouth for tartar buildup or gum disease.

When you visit your veterinarian, bring up any questions or concerns.



ACS Mission Statement

Animal Care Services is dedicated to making San Antonio a city in which every animal receives responsible care. Our Strategic Plan will help guide the community to achieve our "No Kill" goal.

The City of San Antonio is committed to enhancing our community's quality of life by providing both animal control and humane care for the animals in our shelter. This mission to protect pets and people involves providing shelter for lost and stray pets, medical care and vaccinations for incoming animals, increased enforcement and public education.

Animal Care Services supports efforts aimed at decreasing euthanasia and finding loving homes for our community's abandoned dogs and cats. Included are programs for:

- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Low Cost Vaccinations
- Adoptions
- Responsible Pet Ownership

**All available
pets can be
seen on the
web at:
www.saacs.net**



Pet Vaccinations and Preventative Care

Ensure a Healthy and Long Life for Your Pet.

www.saacs.net



City of San Antonio
Animal Care Services
4710 State Highway 151
San Antonio, Texas 78227
210-207-4PET
www.saacs.net

Major Diseases, Their Signs & Symptoms

Canine Diseases

Canine Distemper

Canine distemper is a serious and highly contagious disease that is fatal if left untreated. This disease is spread by airborne exposure to the virus. Canine distemper may spread to your other dogs, especially if they are not vaccinated. Signs of canine distemper include eye discharge, fever, nasal discharge, coughing, reduced appetite, diarrhea and vomiting. As the disease progresses, infected dogs could develop seizures, twitching or paralysis. There is a vaccine for this disease, but giving this vaccine to an animal who is already infected will not help the animal recover. There are no medications that will kill the virus in an already infected dog.

Rabies Vaccination

All dogs, cats and domestic ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies by sixteen (16) weeks of age by a licensed veterinarian. Booster vaccinations are required by State, County and City law one year following the initial rabies vaccination and then at one or three year intervals depending on the vaccine used. Other vaccinations are highly recommended and you should establish a relationship with a veterinarian for your pet.

Heartworms

Heartworms are preventable but potentially fatal parasites that are transmitted by mosquitoes after they bite an infected animal. All pets are at risk for heartworms...even those who stay indoors! Heartworms are easily preventable. Your veterinarian can help you decide which monthly preventative is best for your pet. Signs of advanced heartworm infection can include coughing, loss of appetite, and difficulty breathing...but recently infected dogs may show no symptoms at all.



Kennel Cough

Kennel cough is very common and contagious but rarely fatal. The disease is caused by bacteria and/or viruses that spread among cats and dogs in shelters and other places where there are lots of pets. Kennel cough is to animal shelters what the everyday cold is to daycare centers - It's that common! Signs of kennel cough include a persistent dry cough. The initial hacking should start three to seven days after exposure. Once begun, the coughing will be persistent, possibly occurring every few minutes. These symptoms last one to three weeks.

Parvovirus

Parvovirus, also known simply as Parvo, is highly contagious and potentially fatal to "at risk" dogs - puppies under ten months and dogs that have not been vaccinated. Parvo is transmitted through the feces and vomit of infected dogs. This disease can have a lengthy incubation period and animals may be harboring the disease even though they appear healthy. Signs of the parvovirus include bloody diarrhea, depression, fever, eventual dehydration, loss of appetite and lethargy.

Feline Diseases

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

Feline leukemia is a potentially cancerous disease caused by the feline leukemia virus. Cats may not start to show signs of the disease for months or even years after being infected. FeLV positive cats and kittens can live for years with proper care. There is also evidence young FeLV positive cats may outgrow the disease. Signs of feline leukemia include loss of appetite, weight loss, persistent fever, gum problems, skin infections, poor coat conditions, persistent diarrhea, seizures and severe behavior changes.

Feline Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

Feline upper respiratory infection is similar to a common cold in humans and is especially common in cats that have been exposed to a lot of other cats such as in an animal shelter. URI is rarely fatal and usually clears up within one to three weeks. Signs of feline URI include sneezing, runny nose, red and/or runny eyes, sores on the tongue, lips, nose or roof of mouth, fever, lack of appetite and/or decreased energy.

External Parasites

Fleas

Fleas thrive in our humid south Texas weather and they are a year round problem. Fleas live on your pet by biting and sucking their blood. Young or small pets may become anemic due to the blood loss. Fleas can make your pet itch and scratch so badly they get open sores that may become infected. Regular cleaning of any areas your pet comes into contact with can help keep fleas at bay. You may need to treat your yard as well.

Ticks

Ticks are commonly found in woods and underbrush. Adult ticks attach themselves to dogs and less commonly, cats. Ticks can usually be found near your pet's neck, in their ears, between the toes, and in the folds of the body. Ticks can carry serious infectious diseases like Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. These diseases can affect both pets and people.

Mites

Ear mites are common in young cats and dogs. Ear mites cause severe irritation in the ear canal and your pet may shake his or her head and scratch their ears. A dark brown or black discharge in the ear is common. Scarcopic mange mites are contagious to pets and people. Symptoms include general hair loss, skin rashes and crusting on the skin. Demodectic mange mites can cause your dog to have patches of scaly skin and redness around the mouth and eyes.



**Ask ACS about
affordable veterinary
care options that
are available.**